

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-09
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P R 100935Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6285
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3853

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, NO, UR
SUBJECT: GON TALKS WITH MOSCOW ON THE FISHERIES PRESERVATION
ZONE

REF: OSLO 3613

1. SUMMARY: THE GON HAS INSTRUCTED LOS MINISTER EVENSEN
TO LIMIT HIS UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW TO A RESTATE-
MENT OF THE PRACTICAL CONVERSATION BENEFITS OF THE NORWEGIAN
FPQ MEASURES. HOWEVER, EVENSEN APPARENTLY INTERPRETS HIS
INSTRUCTIONS AS CALLING FOR A DIALOG TO BE KEPT OPEN AS HE BE-
LIEVES PRAGMATIC MEASURES MAY YET PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO THE
SOVIETS. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA LEGAL DIRECTOR AMLIE AND DEPUTY LEGAL ADVISOR
TRESSELT BRIEFED E/C COUNSELOR AUGUST 8 ON GON PREPARATION
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FOR MINISTER EVENSEN'S MEETING WITH FISHERIES MINISTER ISHKOV
IN MOSCOW ON AUGUST 15-16. AMLIE RESTATED THE GON'S EARLIER
UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SOVIETS COULD LIVE WITH NORWEGIAN
FISHERIES CONSERVATION MEASURES PROVIDED THEY COULD DO SO WITHOUT
PREJUDICE TO THIER RESERVATIONS IN PRINCIPLE. AMLIE THEN SAID
THAT THE SOVIET PROTEST OF JULY 18 USED DIFFERENT LANGUAGE
QUOTE WITH QUITE ANOTHER CHARACTER UNQUOTE THAN THAT EMPLOYED

BY ISHKOV AT HIS LAST MEETING WITH EVENSEN AND THAT IT APPEARS THE SOVIETS HAVE NO INTENTION OF DE FACTO ACCEPTANCE OF A NORWEGIAN REGIME. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, WE CANNOT HOPE FOR TALKS RESTRICTED ONLY TO THE QUESTION OF SOVIET REPORTING OF CATCHES.

3. AMLIE SAID THAT AS THE DATES FOR EVENSEN'S MEETING WITH ISHKOV WERE ALREADY FIXED, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, TO AVOID REOPENING THE WHOLE FPZ ISSUE, EVENSEN'S INSTRUCTIONS WILL REQUIRE HIM ONLY TO PRESENT THE CASE FOR PRACTICAL NON-PREJUDICIAL CONSERVATION ARRANGEMENTS IN THE FPZ WHICH THE SOVIETS CAN TACITLY ACCEPT WITHOUT VIOLANCE TO THEIR FORMAL POSITION. IT WILL BE STRESSED THAT A FAILURE BY NORWAY IN ITS EFFORTS TO IMPOSE A NON-DISCRIMINATORY CONSERVATION REGIME WILL LEAD OTHER COUNTRIES TO WITHDRAW THEIR COOPERATION AND NORWAY AND THE SOVIET UNION WILL, AS A RESULT, LOSE A VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCE. AMLIE ADDED THAT IF, AS EXPECTED, EVENSEN IS PRESSED TO DISCUSS JOINT MEASURES TO CARRY OUT JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES, HE MAY ONLY RESPOND THAT THIS IS NOT A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO NORWAY AND THAT THE GON STANDS BY WHAT IT HAS ALREADY SAID ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. AT THIS POINT AMLIE LEFT FOR ANOTHER MEETING, REMARKING AS HE DID THAT THE DELEGATION'S MANDATE MIGHT BE GIVEN A FINAL REVIEW AT THE CABINET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 11. TRESSELT THEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT
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ON AMLIE'S REMARKS. HE BEGAN BY NOTING IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR TO HIS GOVERNMENT JUST WHAT THE SOVIETS' OBJECTIVES ARE IN THIS CASE. OBVIOUSLY, HE SAID, THEY DO NOT LIKE THE JURISDICTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS; EQUALLY OBVIOUSLY THEY WOULD BENEFIT FROM CONSERVATION MEASURES. HOWEVER, IF NORWAY KEEPS PRESSING FOR PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE FPZ, IT MAY BE THAT AFTER THE PYROTECHNICS THE SOVIETS WILL LET THE GON HAVE ITS WAY. A TWO-DAY MEETING, HE SAID, SHOULD BE SHORT ENOUGH SO THAT POSITIONS WILL NOT HAVE TO BE HARDENED AND THE IMPORTANT THING WILL BE TO KEEP OPEN THE DIALOG. EVENSEN BELIEVES, HE SAID, THAT THE SITUATION IN MOSCOW MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE HIS LAST TALKS WITH ISHKOV, BUT THE SIGNALS GIVEN HAVE NOT BEEN AT QUOTE THE ALARMING LEVEL UNQUOTE AND THE GON SHOULD PRESS ON AND SEE WHAT MAY YET BE ACCOMPLISHED.

5. EVENSEN'S DELEGATION WILL BE A LARGE ONE BY GON STANDARDS. IN ADDITION TO EVENSEN AND LOS STATE SECRETARY TREHOLT, BOTH AMLIE AND TRESSELT FROM THE MFA, FISHERIES DIRECTOR-GENERAL GUNNAR GUNDERSEN, A FISHERIES DIRECTORATE OFFICIAL AND NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW PETTER GRAVER WILL PARTICIPATE.

6. COMMENT: EVENSEN APPARENTLY IS ONCE AGAIN MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN THE MFA IN HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FPZ. NEVERTHELESS, THE INSTRUCTIONS HE WILL TAKE TO MOSCOW APPEAR LARGELY TO REFLECT THE MFA POSITION. GIVEN TRESSELT'S REMARKS, THE QUESTION WILL BE HOW CLOSELY AMLIE CAN HOLD EVENSEN TO THE LETTER OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS IF EVENSEN DECIDES THE ROAD TO SUCCESS ON THIS ISSUE LIES THROUGH FLEXIBILITY MORE THAN FIRMNESS. (IN THIS REGARD TRESSELT SEEMED RATHER PUT OUT WHEN IN THE COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION AMLIE REMARKED THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE ONLY THING THE SOVIETS COULD DO TO BLOCK NORWEGIAN ENFORCEMENT OF AT LEAST THE TRAWL-FREE ZONES AND THE MESH SIZE REGULATIONS WOULD BE TO SEND

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GUNBOATS TO ESCORT THEIR FISHING VESSELS. AND THIS, AMLIE SAID, QUOTE WE KNOW FROM RECENT HISTORY TENDS TO LOOK VERY HEAVY HANDED. UNQUOTE)

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